GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1610
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
OFFSHORE OPERATIONS OF ONGC
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an independent inquiry committee to look into the safety and security aspects of the off-shore operations of ONGC;

(b) if so, whether this committee also propose to look into the hiring process of helicopters ;

(c) if so, the other terms and references to this committee ; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to submit its report ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINITSTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) : Terms of Reference of the Committee are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d): An interim report has been received from the Committee on 2nd December,2003. Further, on request of the Committee, its tenure has been extended till 17th February,2004,by which date the final report is expected .

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1610 BY SHRI I(AHMED SARADGI TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING OFFSHORE OPERATIONS OF ONGC.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:-

i) Safety and Security of lives in Offshore Operations, especially air logistics and inspection mechanism.

ii) Maintenance/repairs/replacement of offshore installations, related infrastructures, pipelines etc.

iii) hiring of helicopters, especially MI-172 helicopters, including the circumstances under which the ill-fated helicopter was hired.

iv) Adequacy of efforts made by ONGC in ensuring safety and security of personnel engaged in offshore operation.

v) Action taken on complaints/grievances regarding safety matters including condition of helicopters.

vi) Any act of omission concerning items
(i) to
(v) and the role of Management, if any, therein.

Both short and long term measures required in respects of above matters.